

# The Forum

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS AND INFORMATION

## FROM THE DESK OF OACC PRESIDENT DR. RON ABRAMS



Dr. Ron Abrams  
OACC President

Given the time of year it is, one should not be surprised to look around and find that they are surrounded by change.

Whether it is the leaves turning color, cooler autumn days, or the new faces of incoming freshman, change is part of life - especially this time of year.

One area in particular that is always subject to significant change is politics. A point that was made very clear following the recent elections.

As many serious issues loom that the next administration and legislature will need to address, such as multi-billion dollar deficit and reforming the state's pension systems, I want to take this opportunity to assure all of you that the OACC is poised and ready to meet these challenges head-on!

Key to our success will be the adherence to, and

collaboration on, a statewide strategy that not only capitalizes on each institutions strengths, but also elevates Ohio's community colleges to a new level. To that end, my staff and I have developed a strategy for the coming months that is both measured and focused.

First and foremost, the OACC will utilize the policy agenda we have developed to ensure the values and priorities of the state's community colleges are part of the conversation. Some of which include: ensuring that student success remains the focal point for all legislative efforts related to community colleges; educating lawmakers on the inverse relationship between state funding and enrollment; and, working to advance efforts that promote efficiency.

Additionally, building stronger partnerships with key individuals and groups will be important. As the OACC works to identify and meet with key leaders and staff in both the executive and legislative branches, we encourage each

institution to continue to foster robust relationships with locally elected officials. There will also be a concerted effort to reach out to third party organizations, like chambers of commerce, to carry our message and help to garner public support.

It will also be crucial that we utilize the resources available to us, such as working closely with key groups like the government relations officers on each campus. The OACC will also be mobilizing a small group of five presidents and five trustees to help develop strategy, message and serve as an advisory council to Governor-Elect John Kasich, a request that was made by the Kasich Campaign.

When you take a moment to consider all that Ohio's 23 community colleges have been able to achieve it is quite remarkable. I am confident that if we are to be successful, it will be a direct result of our ability to harness that forward momentum and channel it into achieving greater success for the community college system.

## EXPANDING OUR SERVICES: ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

It's no secret that given today's difficult economic climate, finding a good job can be harder than ever, especially for those out of work and desperately in need of employment. For employers, it can also prove to be a struggle finding the right person with the qualifications needed to fill a particular job.

No where is this more prevalent than among Ohio's community college system. With a seemingly ever-shrinking talent pool from which to draw from, some community colleges are to working harder than ever to fill professional openings on their campuses.

Seeing an opportunity to help get the

word out about these rewarding positions and expand the services available to our member institutions, the OACC has launched a special section on its website dedicated to posting current professional openings at Ohio's 23 community colleges.

Colleges interested in posting job openings for everything from faculty members on up through president, need only to submit a complete job description, details on how to apply and who to contact for additional information. This information will then

be posted at [ohiocommunitycolleges.org](http://ohiocommunitycolleges.org) until the OACC is notified to remove the posting.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from the President  
Front Page

Expanding Our Services  
Front Page

College Spotlight  
Page 2

Extending Health Insurance  
Coverage for Students  
Page 3

OACC in Pictures  
Page 3

Building a Solid Foundation  
Page 4

Capital Insider  
Page 5

Upcoming Events  
Page 6

# COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT CINCINNATI STATE TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ROBERT WHITE

The main campus of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College sits on a hill that overlooks the region's industrial core.

To the west lies the Mill Creek Valley, Greater Cincinnati's transportation and industrial spine. Once a route for farmers bringing livestock to markets, then for the Miami & Erie Canal, the Mill Creek Valley is today traversed by I-75 and is home to many of the region's dominant manufacturers.

But Cincinnati has always been a city that made its money both with its head and its hands – for much of the last century, for example, it was a center for the nation's machine tool industry, while also serving as a regional hub for financial, health, insurance, communications and transportation services.

Cincinnati State fits squarely into those traditions. It has long maintained close ties with the region's employers, and boasts one of nation's largest cooperative education programs. It has also worked with the University of Cincinnati and other four-year institutions in the region to develop efficient pathways for students who want to earn an associate degree and then move on. And in recent years Cincinnati State has developed programs to train students for jobs in areas – everything from renewable energy, sustainable construction and horticulture, health information technology, video production, web design – that were not on any "Help Wanted" lists a decade ago.

Cincinnati State traces its lineage to a two-year technical institute for Cincinnati Public Schools graduates that was launched in 1966. In its first year, the institute offered only four degree programs.

In 1969 the state of Ohio moved to put all technical programs under the control of the Ohio Board of Regents, and that year Cincinnati Technical Institute was established with Clifford House as its first president. That set the stage for a period a steady growth:

By 1974 the institution was renamed Cincinnati Technical College and had purchased its hilltop campus from Cincinnati Public Schools.

In 1976, when Frederick Schlimm became president, enrollment stood at 2,000. At his retirement in 1989 enrollment had doubled, the College was offering 45 programs, and its co-op program had expanded significantly.

In 1990 Dr. James Long became the third president of what would soon become Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. During his tenure the College erected a

health professions building and a parking garage and purchased a small general aviation airport in western Hamilton County.

In 1998 Dr. Ron Wright was inaugurated as president. Two years later Cincinnati State purchased the Workforce Development Center in the Cincinnati suburb of Evendale as a site for corporate training programs. By 2003 enrollment was at 8,000, and the College opened its second parking garage. In 2004 it completed the Advanced Technology & Learning Center, housing the Midwest Culinary Institute, information technologies labs, student activities areas and the largest auditorium on campus.

In late 2007 Dr. John Henderson was appointed interim president. The following year the College introduced a renewable energy and energy efficiency major, and in 2009 it established the Energy & Environment Institute. That year, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu, who holds a Nobel Prize in Physics, gave the commencement address.

In August, 2010, the Board of Trustees named Dr. O'dell M. Owens to succeed Dr. Henderson as president of the College. A graduate of Yale University Medical School, Dr. Owens is a fertility specialist who at the time of his appointment at Cincinnati State was serving as Hamilton County Coroner. He has also served as chairman of the board of the University of Cincinnati, and has long been involved in efforts to improve the quality of education at all levels in Cincinnati and to use education as a means of improving the lives of young people.

The institution he leads today occupies a unique place in the life of Greater Cincinnati. It has witnessed explosive growth – 29 percent over the past year alone, bringing enrollment as of the 2010 Early Fall Term to 10,995.

The growth has done nothing to diminish Cincinnati State's standing as one of the most diverse institutions in the region. Fully 33 percent of the College's students are racial minorities. About 4 percent are from families born outside the United States. Nearly 10 percent commute from Kentucky or Indiana. The average age is 28.3; one-third are age 30 or above. About 62 percent attend school part-time.

Since its inception four decades ago Cincinnati State has sent more than 20,000 graduates into the region's workforce. Even in today's challenging economy, more than 90 percent of our graduates report that within six months they are employed or are pursuing a baccalaureate degree. This is a college that sits on a hill, but it is in fact at the heart of the Greater Cincinnati economy.



*Cincinnati State Technical  
& Community College*

## NEW INITIATIVE AIMED AT HELPING “YOUNG & INVINCIBLE” GET HEALTH INSURANCE

“Accidents happen. Do you have health insurance?” With the enactment of a new state and federal law, an estimated 55,000 additional young adults will now be able to answer YES to that question. The new Ohio law allows unmarried children up to age 28 to remain or be added to their parent’s insurance coverage. The Ohio Department of Insurance and the Ohio Association of Health Plans (OAHP) urge parents to evaluate this opportunity to cover their older age children, who are commonly referred to as the “Young and Invincible.”

According to the 2008 Ohio Family Health Survey, nearly one-third of the Ohio’s uninsured are between the ages of 18 and 24. As such, it was critical to make changes to Ohio’s health insurance laws to enable more young adults to stay on their parents’ health plans until they have the means to purchase insurance on their own.

The new federal law requires dependent coverage be made available until a child reaches age 26. The new state law requires coverage be offered to a child from age 26 until age 28. State law does not require the employer to pay for this added benefit, but federal law does.

The Ohio Department of Insurance and the OAHP are

collaborating to create the Young and Invincible campaign, geared to young Ohioans and parents of young Ohioans, so they are aware of the importance of having health care coverage. Components of the campaign include distributing brochures and posters to college and university campuses, initiating a statewide email campaign targeting young adults, as well as creating a YouTube video campaign, a Facebook account and a Twitter page. The website, at [www.youngandinvincibles.com](http://www.youngandinvincibles.com), also contains stats, stories, and video testimonials, about the need for young adults to have insurance.

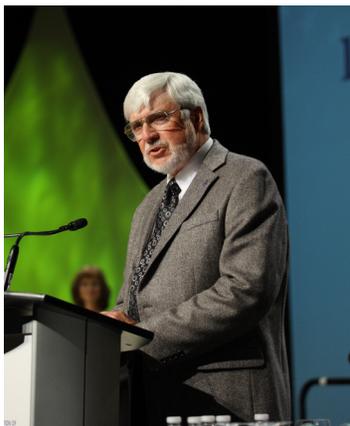
The Department has a dynamic health reforms page on its website at [www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov) that includes a breakdown of the state and federal reforms being implemented in Ohio. Ohioans with questions concerning the new state and federal health care reforms are encouraged to contact the Department by calling 1-800-686-1526. Free information, including fact sheets, brochures, FAQs, an implementation timeline and key links, can also be obtained at [www.insurance.ohio.gov](http://www.insurance.ohio.gov) in the health reforms section.



## THE OACC IN PICTURES: 2010 ACCT ANNUAL CONGRESS - TORONTO, ON



**Above:** Edison Community College Presidential Assistant Linda Peltier, second from right, receives the ACCT Regional Professional Board Staff Member Award at the ACCT Annual Congress in Toronto. Also picture, from left to right, are ACCT Chair Thomas M. Bennett, Edison Community College Board of Trustees Chairman Ed Curry, and ACCT President and CEO J. Noah Brown.



**Above:** Edison Community College Board of Trustees Chairman Ed Curry accepts the 2010 ACCT Regional Trustee Leadership Award on behalf of Dr. Richard Adams at the ACCT Annual Congress in Toronto. **Left:** OACC President Dr. Ron Abrams responds to questions during the Governance Institute for Student Success panel discussion at the ACCT Annual Congress in Toronto. Also pictured is Achieving the Dream Associate Director Dr. Margaretta Mathis.

**Below:** OACC and ACCT representatives participate in a panel discussion at the ACCT Annual Congress in Toronto focused on the Governance Institute for Student Success (GISS) held in Ohio. Pictured from left to right are: GISS Director Tonya Harley, OACC Chairman Darryl Mehaffie, Stark State College President Dr. John O’Donnell, GISS Project Management Associate Elizabeth Alvarado, OACC President Dr. Ron Abrams, and Achieving the Dream Associate Director Dr. Margaretta Mathis.



*If you have photos you would like included in future issues, please send them electronically to OACC Director of Public Affairs Matt McClellan at [mmccllellan@ohiocc.org](mailto:mmccllellan@ohiocc.org).*



# BUILDING A SOLID FOUNDATION

LIBBY VILLAVICENCIO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Libby Villavecincio

Greetings! I am absolutely thrilled to be leading the Ohio Association of Community Colleges' (OACC) Center for Development. My first two months have flown by, and I truly appreciate the warm welcome each of you have extended. As I work to get up to speed on each institution's development activities and interests, I have spent the first few weeks on the job visiting your campuses and meeting various college officials and foundation staff.

As with any new initiative, one of the first objectives has to be ensuring that all key players understand the mission and initial strategies that will be implemented. The Center for Development is no different. To that end, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with each of you a little about the Center, where my focus lies, as well as highlight the principles that will help to my guide my initial work as Executive Director.

Founded in 2008, the OACC Center for Development is a tax exempt public charity. The Center is organized, and is to be operated, exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. In particular, the Center for Development's purpose is to support the activities of the OACC and its members by: soliciting and accepting gifts and grants from sources including the general public, foundations, corporations and governmental entities; making grants to the OACC and/or any of its members to assist such entities in carrying out their missions; providing technical assistance to the OACC and/or any of its members in fundraising and related areas; and, carrying out any other activity permitted to an organization described in Section 501(c) (3) of the Code in furtherance of such purposes.

The OACC Center for Development is the premier organization of its kind in the U.S., expanding the resource development capacity of Ohio's community colleges and, as a result, bringing significant new resources to bear on addressing their mutual and individual missions.

Established to serve as a resource to the 23 OACC member institutions, the Center for Development's mission is to expand the funding capacity and resources available to foundations and development offices at community college campuses throughout Ohio. Additionally, the Center will directly pursue funding opportunities that individual colleges may not be successful in accessing.

Current areas of focus for the Center include: 1)

building a strong board of directors, 2) creating the ability to pursue significant grants for Ohio's community colleges, 3) providing resources to enhance the work of individual college offices in such areas as data base management, donor research, project evaluation and proposal writing, and 4) educating staff—development staff, senior administrators and college presidents - and volunteers of individual colleges in order to make them the “best that they can be” in developing new resources.

The initial strategy that has been implemented focuses on three key areas. First, the Center's work will be dedicated to bringing in new funding. To achieve this goal, the work of the foundation will focus on bringing in national sources of funding for consortia of schools, that individual colleges may not otherwise be able to access, and also by connecting individual colleges with local sources of new funding. Second, the Center will work to enable efficiency and effectiveness by negotiating group discounts for services and tools, as

well as seeking out educational opportunities, consulting, and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned. Finally, and perhaps most critical to the overall success of the foundation, I will work to ensure that the Center is self-sustaining.

As we move forward, staying connected, informed and maintaining open lines of

communication will be instrumental to overall success of the Center for Development. While I am committed to achieving these goals, without the support of each of you, these efforts will be in vain. To that end, I would encourage each of you to regularly visit the Center's section on the OACC website at [ohiocommunitycolleges.org](http://ohiocommunitycolleges.org), and also get involved in the ever-developing online discussions by following the Center on Twitter at [twitter.com/thecfd](https://twitter.com/thecfd).

I truly consider it a privilege to be able to serve all of you in this capacity and look forward to the great things we will accomplish together. At the end of the day, my hope is that all 23 community colleges in Ohio are achieving their resource development goals, directly impacting their ability to meet the demands of their students and local communities.

Sincerely,

Libby Villavecincio, Executive Director  
Center *for* Development





# CAPITAL INSIDER

*A Perspective on State and Federal Politics from the Viewpoint of Key Leaders & Insiders*

Each quarter, *The Forum* invites key leaders and insiders to share their views and opinions on policies and issues that have a direct impact on Ohio's community colleges. This quarter we are pleased to welcome Neil S. Clark, the founder and CEO of Grant Street Consultants, one of Ohio's premiere lobbying firms, to share his insights and perspectives.



Neil S. Clark

Simply amazing! While speaking to selected board members from Terra and Northwest Community Colleges, I predicted one week before the November 2, 2010 election that the Democratic Party would be trounced. I firmly stated that the Democrats would lose up to five Congressional seats, that the control of the Ohio House of Representatives would flip from 53-46 Democratic to 55-44 Republican, that every Democratic statewide race would be lost except for the Auditor of State, and that the U.S. Senate race would be a landslide for the Republican.

I was only wrong on the Auditor's race. I wish I could say that it was a tough call to make, but it wasn't. The numbers don't lie, only people do. Here are some interesting tidbits from the recent election:

One measurement of which party may win an election is called the congressional generic ballot. It simply asks, "Which party will you support for congress in this election?" On October 26, 2008 that number was 18+ Democrat, meaning the Democrats were winning by 18 points. Just two years later that number was 11+ Republican. That's an absolute value change of 29 points – a bad sign for the Democrats.

Most surprising was that in 2008 people 65 and older voted 21+ points more in favor of Democrats than Republicans. By 2010 that number was 9+ Republican.

To add to the hurricane of dissatisfaction, voter turnout was looking dismal for the Democrats. Early voting starts 35 days before the election and Republicans watched in glee while

Democrat voters failed to live up to their party's expectations.

Another analysis of concern for the Democrats was that the Presidents approval rating was at 46%. In addition, Governor Strickland's approval rating was also inverted at 47%. More importantly, while the electorate was giving the President and the Governor low ratings, they clearly targeted their frustration with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Her approval rating was a meager 23%. The electorate was clearly disheartened and ready to punish the actions of Congress – and boy did they ever!

*"Public opinion was very clear - no more spending and no more taxes."*

So here is a breakdown of the statewide offices:

	Total Votes
<i>Governor</i>	
Kasich	1,849,842
<i>Attorney General</i>	
DeWine	1,782,821
<i>Auditor of State</i>	
Yost	1,843,992
<i>Secretary of State</i>	
Husted	1,973,422
<i>Treasurer of State</i>	
Mandel	2,008,892

With 2,008,892 votes, Josh Mandel, Treasurer-elect, received the most votes for any non-federal statewide candidate. John Kasich actually placed third out of five and only bested David Yost by 6,000 votes. It's interesting to note that the Governor-elect DID NOT receive over 50% of the vote. By no means was this the mandate his campaign predicted. But it is not logical to say that a voter came to the polls to vote for Josh Mandel and while they were there they voted for John Kasich. Therefore, it's safe to speculate that Congressional and Senate enthusiasm led voter turnout in this 2010 election.

The National mood against democratic policy was driven federally and not at the state level. Unpopular

policies and poor economic performance got Republicans and Independents angry and excited enough to vote. As a matter of fact, voter enthusiasm was 15+ Republican. At its most basic, voting is a negative activity. That same momentum existed for the Democrats in 2008. Bad memories and empty wallets played well on for Republicans this past election day. Rarely do voters turn out for a candidate or a party because they capture the inspiration and imagination of the public. Barack Obama's 2008 campaign was one such exception. The lack of compromise and the perception that enacted national policies were just too extreme, certainly enabling voters to rebel and kick incumbents out of office.

In 2006 and 2008 Democrats out-pollied Republicans by 304,039 and 260,613 respectively. In 2010, Republicans rolled over Democrats by 456,449. Total votes for congressional candidates, both Republican and Democrat, in 2010 was 3.5 million.

If we look at how each candidate for Governor performed, versus how their respective parties did statewide in Congressional voting, we discover something surprising. John Kasich received 161,208 fewer votes than Republicans running for Congress, while Ted Strickland received 198,198 more votes than Democrats running for Congress. However, when you examine the volume of voters casting a ballot for Republican candidates for Congress, this disparity disappears. Simply put, the public's desire to punish Democrats in Congress was responsible for John Kasich's win over Ted Strickland.

So what does all this mean? The public hasn't just fallen back in love with Republicans. Before the election, the Republican brand had fallen to a 29 percent approval rating and the Democrat brand was at a 34-year low at 32 percent. Voters were disgusted and tossed out the incumbents who supported President Obama.

In the end, the State of Ohio still has a projected deficit of 8 billion dollars and neither candidate addressed how they would solve the budget crises. But the public opinion was very clear – no more spending and no more taxes. If any one can predict pain...I can.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

*Dates are subject to change. For more information, or to use the OACC Conference Room for your next meeting, contact Kesha Brown at [kbrown@ohioacc.org](mailto:kbrown@ohioacc.org) or (614) 221-6222. Additional information available online at [www.ohiocommunitycolleges.org](http://www.ohiocommunitycolleges.org)*

## November

- 17 **Dual Enrollment Financing Consultation**  
*OACC Offices*
- 18 **Center for Development Community College & Foundation Summit**  
*Columbus, Ohio*
- 19 **Presidents' Meeting**  
*OACC Offices*

## December

- 2 **Dual Enrollment Financing Consultation**  
*OACC Offices*
- 14 **Dual Enrollment Financing Consultation**  
*OACC Offices*
- 15 **Building Ohio's Community College Student Success**  
*Columbus State Community College*

## January

- 21 **Presidents' Meeting**  
*OACC Offices*

## February

- 1 **Deadline for Submitting 2011 OACC Excellence Awards Nomination Materials**
- 2 **Executive Committee Meeting**  
*OACC Offices*
- 13-16 **ACCT Legislative Summit**  
*Washington DC*
- 18 **Presidents' Meeting**  
*OACC Offices*

## March

- 3-4 **OACC Statewide Symposium**  
*Columbus, Ohio*
- 18 **Presidents' Meeting**  
*OACC Offices*

## April

- 15 **Presidents' Meeting**  
*OACC Offices*

## OACC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Darryl D. Mehaffie**  
*Chair*  
Trustee, Edison Community College

**Matt Smith**  
*Chair Elect*  
Trustee, North Central State College

**Dr. Morris Beverage**  
*Vice Chair*  
President, Lakeland Community College

**Dr. John O'Donnell**  
*Vice Chair Elect*  
President, Stark State College of Technical

**Liz Gates**  
*Secretary*  
Trustee, Belmont Technical College

**Dr. Marsha Bordner**  
*Treasurer*  
President, Tera State Community College

**Micki Vollmer**  
*Trustee Engagement & Leadership Chair*  
Trustee, James A. Rhodes State College

**Dr. Charlotte Hatfield**  
*Legislative Committee Chair*  
President, Washington State Community College

**Diana (Dee) Talmage**  
*At-Large Trustee*  
Trustee, Owens Community College

**Dr. Karen Rafinski**  
*At-Large President*  
President, Clark State Community College

## OACC STAFF

**Ron Abrams, Ed.D.**  
*President*  
[rabrums@ohioacc.org](mailto:rabrums@ohioacc.org)

**Leah Dickinson**  
*Director of Operations*  
[ldickinson@ohioacc.org](mailto:ldickinson@ohioacc.org)

**Mike Snider, Ph.D.**  
*Project Coordinator*  
[mnsnider@ohioacc.org](mailto:mnsnider@ohioacc.org)

**Kesha Brown**  
*Administrative Assistant*  
[kbrown@ohioacc.org](mailto:kbrown@ohioacc.org)

**Matt McClellan**  
*Director of Public Affairs*  
[mmcclellan@ohioacc.org](mailto:mmcclellan@ohioacc.org)

**Libby Villavicencio**  
*Executive Director, Center for Development*  
[lvillavicencio@ohioacc.org](mailto:lvillavicencio@ohioacc.org)

175 South Third Street • Suite 560 • Columbus, Ohio 43215 • Office: 614-221-OACC (6222) • Fax: 614-221-6239 • [www.ohiocommunitycolleges.org](http://www.ohiocommunitycolleges.org)  
Belmont Technical College • Central Ohio Technical College • Cincinnati State Technical and Community College  
Clark State Community College • Columbus State Community College • Cuyahoga Community College • Eastern Gateway Community College Edison  
Community College • Hocking College • Lakeland Community College • Lorain County Community College  
Marion Technical College • North Central State College • Northwest State Community College • Owens Community College  
James A. Rhodes State College • Rio Grande Community College • Sinclair Community College • Southern State Community College  
Stark State College of Technology • Terra State Community College • Washington State Community College • Zane State College